

REMARKS

The claims have been amended to improve the style of this application. Applicant thanks the Examiner for the careful reading of the application. Claims 1, 3 - 8, 10, 12 - 14, 16 - 24, 26, 27, 30 - 37, 41, 42, 52 - 54, 60 - 66, 68, 69 and 72 - 83 are in this application and are presented for reconsideration. By this Amendment, Applicant has made changes to claims 1, 41, and 42. Applicant has also canceled claims 57 - 59 and added new claims 72 - 83.

The new claims are based on the canceled claims and are also based on the specification. The new claims do not add any new matter to the application.

By this Amendment, the Applicant has amended several claims to overcome the Examiner's rejections and respectfully makes assertions for overcoming the rejections of the outstanding Final Office Action dated December 17, 2003 in the following paragraphs.

Rejections - 35 USC § 103:

Claims 1, 5 - 8, 10, 12 - 14, 16 - 19, 24, 26, 27, 30, 31, 37, 41, 68 - 69 and 71 have been rejected under 35 USC § 103(a) as being unpatentable over JP-05158399 ("Yasunobu '399", hereinafter) in view of EP-0997175 ("Collignon '175", hereinafter).

As noted by the Examiner, the Yasunobu '399 reference discloses an amusement ride comprising an output member having an anthropomorphic road arm (30) with 6° of movement, a passenger station (11) movable engagement with the output member, a platform (bottom panel of passenger station 11), a support member (51) in connection to the robot arm and being on the ground, a column (50) where the robot arm mounted thereto. However, Yasunobu '399

fails to teach and fails to suggest a platform that can be moved from a starting position to a final position for passengers to get in and out of the passenger station. The Yasunobu '399 discloses a platform. However, it is Applicant's position that Yasunobu '399 does not show a platform which can be moved by an actuator. Claim 1 has been amended to include the limitation which clearly describes the present invention as claimed by the Applicant. The amended claim 1 includes a platform that is movable to a first storing position and to a second position for ingress and egress of passengers.

In essence, Yasunobu '399 discloses a simulator comprising a simulation box for moving a person by means of an industrial robot. However, Yasunobu '399 fails to disclose the additional feature of independent claim 1. The additional feature, which provides a platform for ingress or egress of passengers, which is at least movable between a first position for storing of the platform and a second position for loading of passengers, is neither taught nor suggested by Yasunobu '399 nor is it suggested by Collignon '175.

Specifically, Collignon '175 relates to a robotized motion simulator system comprising an industrial robot for moving a user holding frame through a sequence of motions. However, the Collignon '175 lacks the movable platform for ingress and egress of passengers as cited in the present invention as claimed.

Therefore, the present invention as claimed is novel as it relates to an inventive activity with respect to the prior art cited in the Office Action. Even the combined teachings of Yasunobu '399 and Collignon '175 do not disclose nor do they teach a person skilled in the art to divide a platform to be moved for the passenger to go in and out of the passenger seat.

The dependent claims pending in the application either directly or indirectly depend from the amended claim 1. Thus, the dependent claims should also be considered patentable over the prior art as well.

Applicant respectfully notes that of the other references cited in the Office Action, none of the references disclose the aforementioned feature of a movable platform for an ingress and egress of passengers.

Specifically, cited reference U.S. Patent 5,558,581 (Kanijpstra) is concerned with a fairground device having a base disk driven for rotation about a central axis. The fairground device neither relates to an amusement ride with an anthropomorphic robot arm nor does it comprise a passenger loading platform as claimed by the amended claim 1 of the present invention.

U.S. Patent 6,079,982 (Meador) relates to a simulator ride in which a simulator vehicle is moving along a guide and track comprising a plurality of guidance rails. A robot arm and a passenger loading platform are not disclosed.

U.S. Patent 870,378 (Maynes) relates to an amusement apparatus of carousel type comprising a rotatable and tiltable platform 10. Access to said platform may be had by two stairways 28, 29, which are arranged stationary upon opposite sides of said platform (Fig. 2; page 1, lines 94f). Thus, the reference Maynes '378 also lacks at least the feature of the present invention as claimed having an anthropomorphic robot arm and a movable platform for an ingress and egress of passengers.

U.S. Patent 5,865,624 (Hayashigawa) is concerned with a reactive ride simulator

comprising a passenger cabin 40, a motion of which can be controlled in 6° of freedom by a plurality of leg like actuators 54 (Fig. 1). Neither an anthropomorphic robot arm nor a movable passenger platform is disclosed in the reference as cited.

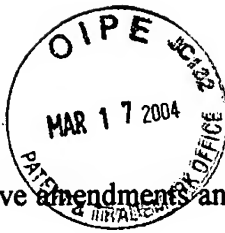
Applicant further notes that the Yasunobu '399 reference and Collignon '175 reference do not provide any suggestion or motivation which would lead a person of ordinary skill in the art to include a platform which is movable for the movable robot arm amusement apparatus. Instead, Yasunobu '399 and Collignon '175 tend to lead a person of ordinary skill in the art to a completely different direction from the present invention as claimed. This is because both of the amusement apparatuses in the prior art references are movable so that the references would lead a person of ordinary skill in the art to assume that the movable amusement apparatus will return to a stable non-moving platform.

There must be some suggestion or teaching in the prior art as a whole which would lead the person of ordinary skill in the arts to provide the combination as claimed. As the prior art as a whole fails to direct the person of ordinary skill in the art toward the claimed combination, the invention should not be considered anticipated, non-obvious and thus patentable.

Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner reconsider the rejection in view of the amended claims in view of the discussion above.

If the Examiner has any comments or suggestions which would further favorable prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to contact Applicant's representative by telephone to discuss possible changes.


At this time, Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of this application in view



of the above amendments and remarks, and Applicant respectfully solicits allowance of this application.


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